

COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

Newsletter
February 2026

Previous Meeting

Sunday 18 January 2026

Near One Tree Hill

A rather cool morning had some of the 10 volunteers wondering if we should have brought jackets. However, we (Natasha Newman, Chris Oates, Ian Priddle, Paul Sheils, Rob Lundie, Linda Spinaze, Nick Nicholls, Tom Babington, Jenny Shapcott and Peter McIntyre) soon warmed up as we walked up from Chauvel Circle to tackle two spreads of ivy near One Tree Hill. It was pleasing to see that the ivy under the ancient *Eucalyptus nortonii* trees, had not regrown too much since we last worked there in October last year. Nevertheless, there was still quite a lot of clearing to be done. At first, I wondered if we would be able to make a significant dent in it. However, after two hours of diligent and sustained hacking, snipping and digging, we could see that we had made real inroads, hoping that we did no damage to the roots of these beautiful old trees. We left feeling satisfied with our work but fully aware that there will be regrowth and thus still more to be done in this area to keep the ivy at bay. It was also pleasing to note that, contrary to the last time we were up there, there were no more bottles and cans strewn around or hidden in the grass.

Rob Lundie

Next Meeting

Sunday 15 February 2026

Near One Tree Hill

Time: 8.30 am – 11.00 am.

Task: Weeding

Meet: Chauvel Circle

Bring: hat, gloves, digger, water to drink.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 0417276497



One ivy patch before work began Photo: Rob Lundie



Ivy remnants after our session Photo: Rob Lundie

New Cattle Gate

As you walk south along the Bicentennial Nature Trail, passing the Old Dam on your right and the Wombat Trail on your left, you will come across a large new gate with a smaller gate next to it. The larger gate will be open for most of time but will be closed when cattle are brought onto the Ridge to keep the grass fuel load down.



New cattle gate

Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie

Burn-off Area Signs

You may have noticed that the signs warning visitors about the recent fire-affected areas, are still in place even though the burn-offs took place early in December last year. The reason that these signs remain in place is that there is still some danger of tree branches falling after the fire. Additionally, the burnt ground is still quite fragile and walking on it can cause some damage to the soil structure. The signs will be removed at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, please keep to the trails to avoid these problems.



Burn off sign

Photo: Rob Lundie

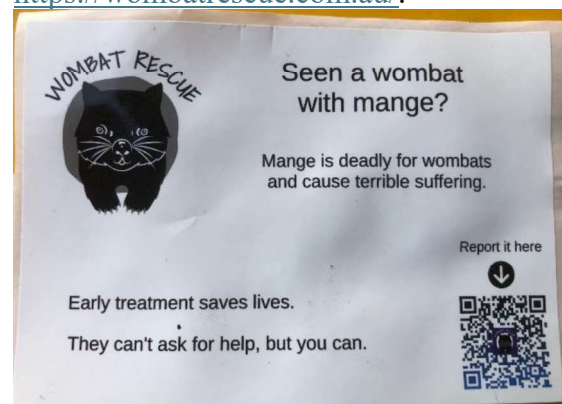
Linda Spinaze

Rob Lundie lundier@iinet.net.au

Wombat Recue

Several members of the Group (Linda Spinaze, Helen Govey, Paul Sheils and Rob Lundie) recently met with Veronika from Wombat Rescue to discuss the welfare and treatment of wombats in our area which have mange. Mange is caused by the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite, and is a severe, often fatal, and highly contagious skin disease. It results in intense itching, hair loss, and thick, infected, scabby skin, typically forcing nocturnal wombats to forage in daylight. Veronika explained how mange is treated. If she sees a wombat and can get close enough, she uses an extendable pole at the end of which is a little bottle containing the medication, Bravecto (\$80), diluent liquid (Orange Power) and some blue dye which enables her to see that the wombat has been treated. In severe cases three treatments may be required. Another treatment method involves the dispersion of 15 weekly doses of cydectin via a flap with a cannister at the entrance to the burrow or at a fence under which wombats travel. As the wombat passes under the flap the medicine pours down its back. It was agreed that the Group (ie Paul) could help by mapping the burrows we know of on the Ridge. This map would also contain wombat treatment sites and sightings of wombats. You too can help by reporting the location of burrows and sightings of wombats via the QR code on the notice below which you will also see on the Ridge. Or you can contact Wombat Rescue on 0424935989. This organization receives no Government funding so you can donate to them via their website:

<https://wombatrescue.com.au/>.



We came away very impressed by the dedication of Veronika, a Czech-born woman who has fallen in love with Australia's wombats and wants to help them. Impressive.

Rob Lundie

www.coolemanridge.org.au